

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH
2016 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT AND PRE-DREDGE ANALYSIS
PERMITTING

PROGRESS REPORT DATE
JULY 02, 2018

Report Period: April 01 thru June 30, 2018

The items below provide a description of key elements related to the current progress, including outstanding items and anticipated resolutions, for completing the work known as Town of Sunset Beach, 2016 Shoreline Management and Pre-Dredge Analysis, Phase 3 - Permitting.

Acronyms: M&N – Moffatt & Nichol
DCM – North Carolina Division of Coastal Management
DMF – North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service
WRC – North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.
USACE – US Army Corps of Engineers (Wilmington District)

Phase 1 – Feasibility Analysis (100% complete)

Items Previously Completed: (100%)

The Town of Sunset Beach (Town) and M&N initiated a contract on February 19th to study the feasibility of conducting approximately 3.5 miles of navigation dredging within the Town limits. The work areas include Mary’s Creek, Turtle Creek, Jinks Creek, the Feeder Canal and adjoining finger canals, and the Bay area. The results of the analysis were positive and the Town elected to move forward with the design and modeling of the proposed work on June 7th. The design work was authorized to begin July 1, 2016.

Phase 2 –Design (100% complete)

Items Previously Completed (100%)

M&N completed the design phase for the project in August 2017. The work included identifying a dredge alignment and determining the volume of dredge material. M&N also completed a shellfish survey for Mary’s and Turtle Creeks and identified material placement locations for the compatible and non-compatible material. The design will continue to be refined as new information becomes available from the environmental studies proposed through the permitting process.

Phase 3 –Permitting (99.39% complete)

Items Previously Completed: (99.00% complete)

1.0 Project Coordination

- The Town conceptually agreed to move forward with use of the USACE material placement islands 310 or 311 at a cost of \$5.75 / cubic yard as a tipping fee. The tipping fee will be paid to the underlying property owner if the material placement islands are used.

2.0 Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey

- M&N completed a draft copy of the shellfish survey and report for distribution and review by the permitting agencies. The findings were presented to the Town at the February 20th council meeting. The report noted some type of mitigation efforts would most likely be required as part of the Jinks Creek dredging. M&N will research potential options for the Town’s consideration and discussion at the next agency coordination meeting.

- The agencies accepted the shellfish survey without comments on April 9th, 2018. DMF reviewed the document and commented on its completeness at the April 9th Agency Coordination meeting.

3.0 Jinks Creek Site Meeting

- The Jinks Creek site meeting was held on Friday, July 21, 2017 with representatives from DCM, DMF, NMFS, USACE, WRC, the Town, and M&N. As a follow up from the site meeting M&N provided an extrapolated expected shellfish quantity in northern Jinks Creek. The list below provides the extrapolated results. (Note the area designations refer to those shown in the figure above.)
 - i. Area 1 – 17 Clams per acre / 534 Oyster per acre.
 - ii. Area 2 – 12 Clams per acre / 712 Oyster per acre.
 - iii. Area 3 – 1 Clam per acre / 870 Oyster per acre.
- Comments received from the site visit indicate NMFS supports the project, but will require some type of mitigation / relocation efforts for the impacted oyster in northern Jinks Creek. The agencies have also indicated the full shellfish survey of Jinks Creek will be required to evaluate the potential impacts.
- Alternate comments received from DCM suggested the agencies would prefer to see 3 permit applications for this overall project covering the following areas:
 - i. Mary's & Turtle Creek.
 - ii. Feeder Canal, Finger Canals, & Bay Area.
 - iii. Jinks Creek as a whole.

4.0 Agency Coordination Meeting

- The 3rd Agency Coordination meeting was held on April 9th 2018. The main outcome from the meeting was as follows:
 - DCM confirmed any dredging any the Feeder Canal or Bay Area could not exceed the governing depth of Jinks Creek or the Tubbs Inlet. A connection at least as deep as the dredging depths must extend either to the Atlantic Ocean or to the AIWW. However, DCM also stated they would support a variance to this requirement (15 NCAC 07H.0208.b.1.f) if the Town requested one from the CAC.
 - DCM noted that other agencies such as DWR may also have concerns about dredging the Feeder Canal or Bay area deeper than Jinks Creek, which is currently at -2MLW. DWR representatives left the meeting early and did not provide feedback regarding their concerns or lack thereof.

5.0 - 8.0 EFH, BA, Cultural Resource Review, & CAMA Major Permit Review

- M&N submitted the revised CAMA major permit for Mary's and Turtle Creek in late February. The permit application included the EFH, BA, and cultural resource review as well as revised drawings showing a dredging buffer around the marsh grasses to minimize potential impacts.
- DCM also clarified that pursuant to NCAC 15A 07H.0208.b.1.f that any proposed work in the Feeder Canal and Bay Area would need to consider the controlling depth of Jinks Creek. The Feeder Canal and Bay Area dredging would not be allowed to extend deeper than the controlling depth of Jinks Creek, which is approx. -2 MLW. Therefore, Jinks Creek would most likely have to be dredged in order to achieve the current design for the Feeder Canal and Bay Area (-5MLW +1). This topic will be discussed at the next agency coordination meeting.

9.0 Coordination with the Town of Ocean Isle Beach (OIB)

- The Town and M&N met with OIB officials and staff on July 24, 2017 to update OIB on the project status. The meeting also began official discussions concerning the cost share potential for beach compatible material placement on OIB.

Progress this Period: (0.39% of total task)

8.0 CAMA Major Permit Submittal

- M&N discussed the project intent with DWR staff to verify if the department had Water Quality (WQ) concerns if the project dredged deeper than the connecting waters as required by 15 NCAC 07H.0208.b.1.f. Support from DWR will be important when the Town requests the variance from the CRC to continue the project without dredging either N. Jinks Creek or Tubbs Inlet to provide the deep water connection. DWR staff indicated they supported the variance request but would need to review the application to confirm.

9.0 Coordination with the Town of Ocean Isle Beach (OIB)

- M&N discussed the potential for cost sharing sand placement on OIB with Town leaders of Ocean Isle Beach. OIB elected not to participate in the project financially citing the proposed placement volume would not create a significant enough benefit for OIB residents. (Approximately 30,000 CY should be placed as beneficial reuse for the project.)

Outstanding Items and Anticipated Completion Dates:

8.0 CAMA Major Permit Submittal

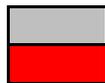
- M&N will revise the CAMA permit submittal for the Bay Area, the Feeder Canal, and South Jinks Creek to exclude North Jinks Creek with the expectation the agencies will condition the permit to include either Jinks Creek or Tubbs Inlet based on 15 NCAC 07H.0208.b.1.f. If this occurs the Town will need to request a variance from the CAC to relax this requirement.
- The Town will consider a proposal for including beneficial reuse material placement on Sunset Beach at the July 2nd council meeting. The proposal includes the survey and sediment analysis work necessary to permit the placement of compatible material from S. Jinks Creek along the Sunset Beach shorefront. If the proposal is approved, the work will be completed in July and will be included in the permit application for the S. Jinks Creek. (Permit submittal will occur in late July.)
- The proposal also includes additional coordination efforts to work towards securing use of the USACE material placement islands along the AIWW; and, to provide support during the variance request to the CRC for removing the dredging of N. Jinks Creek from the permit application.

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DESIGN & PERMITTING**

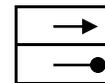
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Progress Schedule

Tasks	2016						2017						2018														
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Project Coordination																											
Jinks Creek Shellfish Survey																											
Jinks Creek Site Meeting																											
3rd Agency Coordination Meeting																											
EFH Assessment																											
Biological Assessment (BA)																											
Cultural Resources Review																											
CAMA Major Permit																											
Coordination with OIB																											
Environmental Management																											



Anticipated timeframe to complete task.
Anticipated overrun in task.



Work in progress (WIP) for task.
Actual timeframe to complete task.